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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
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\$10 Million Breakthrough in Telegraph Road Widening

VDOT's worsening financial situation has been bad news for commuters on Telegraph Road. With BRAC implementation only a year and a half away, we couldn't wait any longer to do something about the severe congestion on the section of Telegraph Road between South Van Dorn Street and South Kings Highway.

At the April 27 Board of Supervisors meeting, the BOS voted unanimously to fund the widening of this short 1,500-foot section of the roadway. (As roads are still a state responsibility, VDOT has agreed to design, acquire the right-of-way, and build the section.) With 13,000 additional BRAC employees (4,500 to Fort Belvoir and 8,500 to the EPG) relocating to this section of the County, inaction was not an option.

Funding for this project comes from Fairfax County through \$8.5 million in 2007 BRAC Transportation Bond funds and \$1.5 million in C&I funds. There are still a number of steps before construction can begin, from environmental review to right-of-way acquisition. Citizen information meetings are planned for this summer with a public hearing in late September. I wish the process were quicker but VDOT has assured us that it will fast track the project.

In tough fiscal times I am glad we could find the necessary funding for this key road project. I cannot think of a project that provides a better bang for our buck. This relatively small road project will make a huge contribution to unclogging a Telegraph Road bottleneck and it's long overdue.